

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY  
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**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**LS 6675**

**BILL NUMBER:** HB 1074

**NOTE PREPARED:** Apr 19, 2011

**BILL AMENDED:** Apr 14, 2011

**SUBJECT:** Selection of School Board Members.

**FIRST AUTHOR:** Rep. Frizzell

**FIRST SPONSOR:** Sen. C. Lawson

**BILL STATUS:** As Passed Senate

**FUNDS AFFECTED:** X **GENERAL**  
**DEDICATED**  
**FEDERAL**

**IMPACT:** State & Local

**Summary of Legislation:** (Amended) *School Board Elections*- The bill provides that, beginning in 2012, school board members selected by election must be elected at general elections and take office the following January 1.

*School Board Plan*- The bill provides that a school board plan may be amended to allow for both election and appointment of the members of the school board.

*School Plan Change Petition Percentage*- The bill allows a change in a school board plan to be initiated by the filing of a petition signed by at least 10% of the voters of the school corporation with the clerk of the circuit court. (Under current law, a petition initiating a change in a school board plan must be signed by at least 20% of the voters of the school corporation.)

*Mishawaka Public Question*- The bill provides for a public question to be placed on the ballot at the 2011 municipal election in Mishawaka asking the voters whether the method of choosing members of the governing body of the Mishawaka school corporation should be changed. The bill establishes, if the voters of Mishawaka approve the public question, a governing body of five members, three of whom are elected at large by the voters of the city, one of whom is appointed by the city executive, and one of whom is appointed by the city legislative body. The bill provides other details of the organization of the governing body.

*School Board of East Chicago*- The bill provides for the election rather than the appointment of the members of the school board for the city of East Chicago and adds certain other provisions concerning the composition and organization of the school board.

*Repealer-* The bill repeals provisions related to the election of school board members at the primary election.

**Effective Date:** July 1, 2011.

**Explanation of State Expenditures:** (Revised) *School Board of East Chicago-* The State Board of Education would be required to establish balloting procedures for the election of all School City of East Chicago (SCEC) governing body members. The Board would be able to carry out this provision within existing resources. The Board typically is scheduled to meet 11 or 12 times per year.

**Explanation of State Revenues:**

**Explanation of Local Expenditures:** *School Board Elections-* Election boards in counties with primary elected school boards would likely make minimal adjustments to their election budgets to print school board member ballots for general elections.

*School Board Plan-* This bill would allow a school board to have some members elected and some members appointed. If a school corporation decided to elect some members, printing costs could increase slightly due to the addition of the school board members on a paper ballot. Counties with direct recording electronic (DRE) voting systems could reprogram their DREs to include school board candidates with a minimal increase in administrative time.

*School Plan Change Petition Percentage-* This provision could slightly increase the number petitions filed to change a school board plan. The impact of this provision on local expenditures would be minimal.

(Revised) *Mishawaka Public Question-* Municipal elections in Mishawaka are currently conducted with optical-scan voting systems. The public question language would need to be added to the November 2011 municipal election ballot. Addition of a public question would slightly increase the cost to St. Joseph County to print ballots during that election for the citizens of Mishawaka. Were elections of the board members authorized by the Mishawaka electorate, printing expenses would increase slightly to accommodate four of the school board candidates on future general election ballots.

(Revised) *School Board of East Chicago-* Currently, the SCEC governing body has five members. The impact to local expenditures would be from the salary, per diem allowance, and other expenses for the additional four members provided under the bill. The Lake County Circuit Court Clerk would see a small increase in administrative time to process candidacy filings for the East Chicago School Board.

*Background Information- Mishawaka Board-* The Mishawaka school board currently has five members. The most recent appointed member was appointed in January 2010 and will hold the position until December 31, 2013.

*East Chicago Board-* The SCEC board members are currently appointed by the mayor of East Chicago and have staggered terms in a two-one-two format. One term expires on June 30, 2012, one term on June 30, 2011, and two terms expired June 30, 2010.

*Board Selection Methods-* With 288 school corporations reporting, the Department of Education reports for school year 2009-2010, that 195 school boards were elected at primary, 78 elected at general elections, and 15 boards were appointed.

**Explanation of Local Revenues:**

**State Agencies Affected:** Department of Education.

**Local Agencies Affected:** County election boards, school corporations; School City of Mishawaka; School City of East Chicago.

**Information Sources:** School City of East Chicago; Department of Education website.

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